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CONTACT: Eugene Cottilli
202-482-2721

**MARYLAND COMPANY SETTLES CHARGES OF
UNLAWFUL EXPORTS OF BIOTOXINS**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- The U. S. Department of Commerce today imposed a \$230,000 civil penalty on Life Technologies, a Division of Invitrogen Corporation (Life Technologies, Inc.) of Rockville, MD, to settle allegations that the company illegally exported biotoxins to Australia, Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Peru, and Scotland, Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Lisa Prager announced.

The Department alleged that on 46 separate occasions in 1995 and 1996, Life Technologies, Inc. exported alpha-toxin and microcystin without the required licenses. The toxins are controlled because they can be used in the development or production of chemical and biological weapons.

Life Technologies voluntarily disclosed the violations to the Department and cooperated fully in the investigation. As part of today's settlement, \$100,000 of the penalty was suspended. Commerce's Office of Export Enforcement Washington Field Office investigated the case.

The Department of Commerce, through its Bureau of Export Administration, controls and licenses exports and reexports of dual-use commodities, technology, and software for reasons of national security, foreign policy, nonproliferation and short supply. Criminal penalties, as well as administrative sanctions, can be imposed for violations of the Export Administration Regulations.